UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/983
S/22381
25 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 43
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 22 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 22 March 1991 addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 March 1991 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 14 March 1991 addressed to Your Excellency by Mr. Petros Eftychiou, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Greek Cypriots at the United Nations, which has been circulated as document A/45/976-S/22352.

While not intending to dwell on each of the unfounded allegations made in that letter, for they do not really merit a reply, I wish to refer to two particular points contained in the letter.

Firstly, I wish to point out that Mr. Eftychiou's description of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as an "illegal entity created in the occupied part of Cyprus by Turkey" reveals, once again, the manner in which the Greek Cypriots regard the Turkish Cypriot people, with whom they are supposed to be not only equal negotiating parties but also equal partners in a future federation, as envisaged by Security Council resolution 649 (1990). Your Excellency will appreciate that such continued slander against the Turkish Cypriot side causes great indignation amongst the Turkish Cypriot people and only reinforces our suspicion that the current mentality of the Greek Cypriot side continues to be utterly unprepared for any new political association with the Turkish Cypriots based on equality and mutual respect.

Secondly, I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that his "call upon Turkey to return to the negotiating table" is both misdirected and irrelevant. Turkey is not a party to the Cyprus issue which is a question between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples. Had Mr. Eftychiou carefully read the text of Security Council resolution 649 (1990), to which he pays lip service, he would have observed that this resolution "calls upon the leaders of the two communities to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution providing for the establishment of a federation that will be bi-communal as regards the constitutional aspects and bi-zonal as regards the territorial aspects ..."

Furthermore, any call for a return to the negotiating table could only be directed at the Greek Cypriot side, which has a history of evading serious negotiations and preferring instead false propaganda. It is unfortunate that this continues to be the case, as is evident from Mr. Eftychiou's letter.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus